

Claims

1. A beverage preparation system comprising a beverage preparation machine having means for receiving a range of beverage cartridges and means for passing an aqueous medium through said beverage cartridges, a first beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients for preparing a first portion of said beverage, and a second beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients for preparing a second portion of said beverage, wherein that one of the first or second beverage cartridges contains a liquid dairy-based ingredient.
2. A method of preparing a beverage comprising the steps of:
- a) inserting a first beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients into a beverage preparation machine;
 - b) operating said beverage preparation machine to pass an aqueous medium through the first beverage cartridge to dispense a first portion of said beverage into a receptacle;
 - c) inserting a second beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients into the beverage preparation machine; and
 - d) operating the beverage preparation machine to pass an aqueous medium through the second beverage cartridge to dispense a second portion of said beverage into the receptacle;

wherein that one of the first or second beverage cartridges contains a liquid dairy-based ingredient.

- 5 3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein one of the first or second beverage cartridges contains an ingredient for forming a brewed portion of a beverage.
- 10 4. A method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of removing the first beverage cartridge before inserting the second beverage cartridge.
- 15 5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the beverage ingredient in the first or second beverage cartridge is roast and ground coffee.
- 20 6. A method as claimed in claims 4 wherein the beverage ingredient in the first or second beverage cartridge is leaf-based tea.
- 25 7. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the beverage ingredient in the first or second beverage cartridge is a liquid coffee ingredient.
8. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the liquid dairy-based ingredient is a concentrated dairy-based product.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the concentrated dairy-based product is concentrated liquid milk.
- 5 10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the concentrated liquid milk contains between 25 and 40% total solids.
- 10 11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the concentrated liquid milk contains 30% total solids.
- 15 12. A method as claimed in claims 11 wherein the concentrated liquid milk contains between 0.1 and 12% fat.
- 20 13. A method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising the step of foaming the one or more liquid dairy-based ingredients during dispensation.